

**Amendment to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1-16. (canceled)

17. (previously presented) A method of recovering factor VIII/von Willebrand factor-complex (factor VIII/vWF-complex) comprising:

- (a) providing a protein solution comprising a factor VIII/vWF complex containing high-molecular weight vWF multimers,
- (b) binding said factor VIII/vWF-complex containing high-molecular weight vWF multimers to a cation exchanger, and
- (c) eluting said cation exchanger by a step-wise elution process to elute and recover said factor VIII/vWF-complex containing high-molecular weight vWF multimers.

18. (currently amended) A method as set forth in claim 17, wherein  
said protein solution contains a contaminating protein, said contaminating protein including a factor VIII/wVF complex containing low-molecular weight vWF multimers, factor VIII free from platelet agglutinating vWF activity, or factor VIII:C;

said binding comprising contacting said protein solution with said cation exchanger at a salt concentration of  $\leq 250$  mM, whereby said factor VIII/vWF-complex containing high-molecular weight vWF multimers and ~~at least one of said contaminating proteins~~ said contaminating protein become bound to said cation exchanger; and

a step in said step-wise elution process comprises eluting ~~at least one said~~ contaminating protein from said cation exchanger at a salt concentration of between  $\geq 250$  mM and  $\leq 300$  mM.

19. (previously presented) A method as set forth in claim 17, wherein said eluting step comprises eluting said factor VIII/vWF-complex containing high-molecular weight vWF multimers from said cation exchanger at a salt concentration of  $\geq 300$  mM.

20. (previously presented) A method as set forth in claim 17, wherein said eluting step comprises eluting said factor VIII/vWF-complex containing high-molecular weight vWF multimers from said cation exchanger at a salt concentration of  $\geq 350$  mM.

21. (previously presented) A method as set forth in claim 19, wherein said recovered factor VIII/vWF-complex is a factor VIII/vWF complex-containing fraction, free from low-molecular vWF multimers, vWF degradation products, non complexed factor VIII, and is substantially free of contaminating nucleic acids.

22. (previously presented) A method as set forth in claim 17, wherein said elution of said factor VIII/vWF complex containing high-molecular weight vWF multimers from said cation exchanger is carried out in a buffer system having a pH ranging between 4.5 and 8.5.

23. (original) A method as set forth in claim 22, wherein said pH of said buffer system is  $\geq 7.1$  and  $\leq 8.5$ .

24. (original) A method as set forth in claim 17, wherein said cation exchanger is sulfopropyl-group conjugated carrier or a carboxymethyl-group conjugated carrier.

25. (previously presented) A method as set forth in claim 17, wherein said protein solution is selected from the group consisting of a plasma, a plasma fraction, a cryoprecipitate, a cell-free supernatant of a recombinant cell culture, an extract of a recombinant cell culture, and a protein fraction enriched in factor VIII/vWF-complex.

26-37. (canceled)

38. (previously presented) A method as set forth in claim 18, wherein said eluting step comprises eluting said factor VIII/vWF-complex containing high-molecular weight vWF multimers at a salt concentration of  $\geq 300$  mM.

39. (previously presented) A method as set forth in claim 18, wherein said eluting step comprises eluting said factor VIII/vWF-complex containing high-molecular weight vWF multimers at a salt concentration of  $\geq 350$  mM.